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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
NEWTOWN & LLANLLWCHAIARN.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

INCLUDING THE

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTOWN & LLANLLWCHAIARN.

PUBLIC HEALTH and WATER COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. M. J. DAVIES

Members ;

Councillors Mrs. J. D. SMITH
R. J. BRYMER-GRIFFITH
J. I. MORRIS
W. G. IVOR JONES
J. E. NEALE
C. T. HODGSON

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health :

AMELIA EVANS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

Mr. W. G. DAVIES, M.P.H.I.A., M.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

Mr. W. A. YOUNG

Rodent Operator - Mr. Harry Matthews

Administrative Clerk - Mr. Idris Owen

Davies & Sons (N.), Ltd., Printers, Newtown.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn
Urban District Council.

1 have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1956 on the Health and Sanitary Conditions in your District, and which is arranged in accordance with the Welsh Board of Health Circular 19/56 (Health).

STAFF.

There were no staff changes in the year under review.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS:

The birth rate for 1956 was 16.54 per 1,000 population compared with 14.74 in 1955. This rate rate for the Urban districts in the County was 14.92 and for the whole county 15.0.

There were 2 still births giving a percentage of 2.2 of live births. In 1955 this figure was 3.9%. In the Urban Districts the still birth rate was 2.6% and for the County this rate was 1.8%.

There were 2 illegitimate births being 2.2% of total births. This was 1.2% in 1955. The percentage of illegitimate births in the Urban districts was 3.7 and the whole County 3.94.

INFANT MORTALITY:

There were 5 deaths of infants under one year of age giving an infant mortality rate of 56 per 1,000 live births. This is a very high rate. The mortality in 1955 was 25 per 1,000. In the urban districts this rate in 1956 was 26 per 1,000 live births and in the County 30.

The causes of deaths of the infants were:—

1. Boy age 4 hours—due to prematurity (21 lbs. 2 ozs. at birth).
2. Boy age 2 days—due to intussusception.
3. Boy died at 30 minutes due to hydrops factalis.
4. Boy died at 2 weeks with toxaemia due to acute staphylococcus pemphigus.
5. Girl died at one day due to congenital atelectasis.

DEATHS:

The total number of deaths from all causes was 68 giving a rate of 12.64 per 1,000 population. For the Urban districts this rate was 12.78 and for the whole Coucty the rate was 12.19. The rate in 1955 was 10.45 per 1,000 population.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1955, SECTION 47.

No action was taken under this Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

A quite severe epidemic of measles occurred in the town. This began towards the end of September and was practically over by mid-December. In all some 347 cases were notified.

The town was free of any other outbreak of infectious disease.

HOUSING:

The 16 houses commenced in 1955 on the Canal Road were completed and occupied and a further 4 were completed. By the end of the year plans were drawn and work was well in hand for the erection of 12 two-bedroomed bungalows. These are to provde for the first part of the slum clearance scheme.

In order to proceed with the slum clearance programme the Council has been endeavouring to obtain suitable sites for development at an economic cost. The environment of the town—being surrounded by hills and agricultural land—has made this task a difficult one.

WATER SUPPLY:

I am concerned about the storage capacity of the Reservoir. Restrictions were again imposed on the use of hosepipes and car washing, etc., in the summer months With the Council's proposal to erect houses for slum clearance, it is obvious that more water will be used with the improved amenities in these houses. The Council also wishes to attract light industries to the town, again with the neccesity for more water. The gathering ground for the Reservoir is an extensive one and much water runs to waste throughout a great part of the year. It is the Council's duty to conserve much of this waste water.

The Public Health Committee has again this year shown a keen interest in the work of my department.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow officials—the Clerk, the Public Health Inspector and his assistant for their co-operation in all matters affecting the health of this town.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

Statistics.

	1956.	1955.
Area in Acres	7,224	7,224
Population (Mid-year Estimate)	5,380	5,360
Rateable Value	£59,564	£29,804
Sum represented by one penny	£238 6s. 0d.	£114 15s. 8d.

Live Births:

	1956.			1955		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	54	33	87	35	43	78
Illegitimate	2	0	2	1	0	1
Total	56	33	89	36	43	79

Birth rate per 1,000 population:		
(a) For Newtown	16.54	14.74
(b) For the Urban Districts	14.92	15.53
(c) For the whole County	15.0	14.87

Still Births:

	1956.			1955.		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	0	2	2	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	2	2	1	3

Still Births as % of Total Births for		
(a) For Newtown	2.2	3.9
(b) Urban Districts	2.6	2.2
(c) Whole County	1.8	2.6

Infant Mortality.

	1956	1955
The infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births) :		
(a) For Newtown	56	25
(b) For Urban Districts	26	25
(c) For the whole County	30	28

Deaths (All causes).

	1956			1955		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
All ages	31	37	68	30	26	56
Death rate per 1,000 population :						
(a) For Newtown		12.64			10.45	
(b) For Urban Districts		12.78			12.70	
(For whole County		12.19			12 57	

Age at death—all causes.

	1956			1955		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*6emale*	*Total*
0—1 year	4	1	5	0	2	2
1—5 years	1	0	1	0	0	0
5— ,, ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
15— ,, ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
25— ,.	0	0	0	0	0	0
35— ,, ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
45— ,, ...	1	3	4	2	3	5
55— ,, ...	5	2	7	4	3	7
65— ,, ...	9	14	23	7	6	13
75— ., ...	8	13	21	10	8	18
85 years and over	2	4	6	4	5	9
Total	31	37	68	29	27	56

Causes of Deaths.

	1956.			1955.		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningoccal Infectious	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aaute poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0

	M.	*F.*	*Total*	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malignannt neoplasm of stomach	2	2	4	1	0	1
do. lung, bronchis	1	0	1	1	1	2
do. breast	0	2	2	0	1	1
do. uterus	0	1	1	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4	7	4	3	7
Leukaemia	1	0	1	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	8	13	8	6	14
Coronary disease (anginia)	3	3	6	4	2	6
Hypertension with heart disease	0	1	1	0	1	1
Other heart disease	4	10	14	6	6	12
Other circulating disease	0	2	2	3	3	6
Influenza	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia	0	1	1	0	0	0
Bronchitis	3	0	3	1	0	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	0	0	0	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis or diarrhoea	0	1	1	0	0	0
Nephutis and nephrosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	—	0	0	—	0
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	0	0	—	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	7	1	8	0	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents	0	1	1	0	0	0
All other accidents	1	0	1	0	1	1
Suicide	0	0	0	0	0	0
	31	37	68	29	27	56

Notifiable Diseases.

Scarlet fever	0
Whooping Cough	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0
Measles	347
Diphtheria	0
Dysentery	0
Meningococcal Infections	0
Acute pneumonia	2
Smallpox	0
Acute encephalitis	0
Tyhoid Fever.....	0

Paratyphoid fever		0
Erysipillis		0
Food poisoning		0

Quarterly Distribution of Infectious Diseases.

1st	Quarter ending	March 31st, 1956		1 acute pneumonia
2nd	do.	June 30th, 1956		None
3rd	do.	Sept. 30th, 1956		18 measles
4th	do.	Dec. 31st, 1956		329 Measles
				1 acute pneumonia

Age and Sex Distribution of Measles.

		Male	Female
Under 1 year		4	2
1 year		10	12
2 years		15	19
3 years		20	16
4 years		26	27
5—9 years		107	81
10 - 14 years		0	5
15—24 years		0	0
25 years and over		1	2
Tottl		183	164

Tuberculosis.

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified in 1956:—

(1) Male of 29 with the lungs and genito-urinary system involved.

(2) Female of 34 with pulmonary involvement. This patient was originally notified in 1946 and removed from the register in 1953 having been cured.

There was one case transferred into the district—a man of 31 with pulmonary involvement.

Seven cases were removed from the register.

(1) Male age 13 in 1950 when first notified with tubercular cervical adenitis.

(2) Female aged 25 in 1951 when first notified with tubercular cervical adenitis.

(3) Male age 12 in 1951 when first notified with pulmonary involvement.

The remaining four cases left the district :—

(1) Female age 42 in 1943 notified with pulmonary tuberculosis
(2) Female age 36 in 1948 do. do.
(3) Female age 26 in 1955 do. do.
(4) Male age 37 in 1955 do. do.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 35 cases of notified tuberculosis living in the district,

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Ambulance.

The local service is the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee.

Telephone—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Newtown 205.
After 5 p.m. Newtown 359.

Sitting-car service: All requests to the County Health Offices, Newtown. Tel.: Newtown 205.

Children's Officer.

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act, 1948.

The Children's Officer is :—

Mr. S. M. Parsons,
Children's Department,
County Offices,
Welshpool. Tel. 3311.

The Children's Reception Home is at :—

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Tel. 3109.

Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing.

The district is served by :—

Sister C. Lloyd Jones,
Bryneglwys,
Newtown. Tel: Newtown 497.

Health Visitor.

The Health Visitor for this area is :—
Miss N. L. Jones,
County Health Offices, Newtown.

Home Health Service.

Home Help is available in certain cases on application to the Supervisor :—

Mrs. R. Goodwin,
County Health Offices, Newtown. Tel. 205.

Hospitals.

The Montgomery County Infirmary is controlled by the Mid-Wales Management Committee based in Aberystwyth. Medical, Surgical and Maternity cases are admitted.

Sanatoria : North Wales Sanatorium, Denbigh.
Chest Hospital, Machynlleth.

Infectious Diseases : Monkmoor Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Laboratory Service.

Much use is made of this service in the testing of frequent samples of water and milk. These examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at :—

Donald-Hudson Pathological Laboratories.
Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.
Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is responsible for this service.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Wednesday at the Clinic, Park Street, Newtown at 2-30 p.m.

Dental Clinic.

Again the Council is responsible for this service and Dental Clinics are held at Park Street for the treatment of school children.

Tuberculosis.

This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

The Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas, holds clinics at the County Infirmary on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m.

Vaccination.

Vaccination against small-pox in this area is carried out by the local general practitioners.

Protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

It is often the practice now to offer protection against these two diseases at the same time. The treatment consists of three injections at monthly intervals starting when a baby is 5 6 months old and followed by a booster dose at the age of 5 when the child goes to school.

Immunisation in this area is carried out by the local general practitioners and by the Assistant County Medical Officer at the Clinic, Park Street.

This procedure is done at no financial cost to the parent and every parent should be encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to have their children immunised against diphtheria especially. Unless a high percentage of children are immunised, diphtheria might well make its re-appearance, and often with fatal results.

Poliomyelitis.

In 1956 a small amount of Polivirin was made available to vaccinate children born in the years 1947-54. Because of the limited amount of vaccine, children were selected by the month of their birth. However with increasing supplies it is hoped to be able to vaccinate in 1957 all children whose parents have consented and to extend it to children born in 1955 and 1956.

Because of the fact that this vaccine has to be stored at a certain temperature and because of the still fairly restricted supplies, vaccination is carried out by the Medical Officers employed by the County Council at Schools and Clinics throughout its area,

Venereal Diseases.

Clinics are held at :—

(a) 1, Belmont, Shrewsbury.

Men—Tuesdays and Fridays—6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Women—Mondays and Wednesdays—3-30 p.m. to 5-30 p.m.

(b) The Dispensary, Brook Street, Oswestry.

Men—Thursdays—1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Women—Thursdays—2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my contribution to the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1956.

Much work was done during the year in environmental health, and much, as is inevitable remains to be done. This is much more so in a small district where a joint appointment is held.

A complete survey of food premises was carried out under the Food Hygiene Regs., 1955-56. and notices served to carry out structural work, and pointing out existing failures in observing hygiene in handling of food, etc,

Supply of water to all parts of the district which is piped continued to be satisfactory, but here again much work remains to be done in renewing mains, services, etc., which are old and corroded and badly sited. There are still far too many stand-pipes used communally in open yards. Once, however, slum clearance gets under way much will be done to get rid of this last century feature.

I also share the Medical Officer's concern in regard to the limited storage of the Council's reservoir resulting in appeals, rationing, etc.. year after year, and to which I drew attention in my report for last year. Also, as Water Manager to the Council. I might add that much extra work is placed on my staff in this respect.

Once again my thanks are due to the Health Committee for their continual support, help and encouragement, and also to the Clerk. Medical Officer, Additional Public Health Inspector, and all members of the staff both indoor and outdoor for their co-operation and help throughout the year.

Yours obediently,

W. G. DAVIES,

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 3,637, and details as to the nature of these inspections are given below :—

SUMMARY:

(1) Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	36
(2) Number of houses inspected for other than Housing defects	48
(3) Premises other than houses inspected (including visits to Industrial premises)	2175
(4) Premises re-inspected (including houses)	227
(5) Works in progress (including houses)	98
(6) Miscellaneous visits	1053
	3637

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No action was taken during the year in regard to Clearance Areas, and four premises were dealt with by way of Closing Orders.

Difficulties were experienced by the Council during the year with regard to building sites to take the necessary houses for displaced slum dwellers. This difficulty principally was due to available sites being difficult ones from the point of view of expensive preparation, etc.

It is hoped that now slum clearance can proceed with all speed, which indeed it must if the first five-year programme is to be completed.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health Acts) 36

Repairs: Informal action—

Number of houses unfit but rendered fit during period as a result of informal action 23

Action made under Statutory Powers—

Number of housef in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected since 1945 :—

By Local Authority	218
By Private Enterprise	74

Number of houses erected during 1955 :—

By Local Authority	16
By Private Enterprise	7

Temporary Accommodation :

8 huts remained occupied at 31st December in Glandulas Camp.

It is now becoming in view of the Ministry's request, and principally due to living conditions that this temporary accommodation be closed as soon as possible.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Routine meat inspection at the Council's Slaughter House at Stone Street and the private slaughter houses at Great Brimmon and Lower Brimmon was carried on throughout the year. The high quality of the animals slaughtered reflects in the low figure of condemnations.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed	310	4	2074	485	2873
Number inspected	310	4	2074	485	2873
Diseases other than T.B.					
(Whole carcases)	—	—	7	1	8
(Part carcases) ...	34	—	25	3	62
Percentage of number inspected with diseases other than T.B.	10.9	—	1.5	0.8	
Whole carcases (T.B. only)	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcases condemned (T.B. only)	4			1	5

Condemned food is disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip under supervision and all condemned meet covered with dye to render unsaleable.

As mentioned in my preface all food establishments in the area were inspected under the new Food Regulations. This survey showed that many things need to be done, and owners were requested to put their premises in order and to observe at all times hygienic handling, storage and preparation of food.

SEWERS.

During the year, the General Descaling Company were employed to scrape approximatgly 100 yards of Sewer in Short Bridge Street, and to bore and scrape approximately 300 yards of Sewer in Park Street, and Market Street, The Park Street section had been completely blocked for many years thereby overloading the bye-pass through Frolic and Ladywell Streets. Much debris and silt was removed from these sewers and emphasises the need for the complete sewer system to be systematically cleaned.

Disposal continued at the Council's Sewage farm, North-East of the town. Difficulty is experienced here constantly with distribution of the sewage due to the fact that the outfall sewer is below the level of most of the sewage farm. It seems imperative that some form of pumping at least be considered in the near future to deal with this problem.

Cost of course looms as a spectre when the idea of providing a modern sewage works is considered.

WATER SUPPLY.

Distribution during the year remained good, all parts of the town receiving an adequate supply.

Once again great difficulty was experienced during the dry summer months when the top level of the reservoir dropped considerably, emphasising again the need for greater storage.

The distribution mains in the town need much attention, and once again it is stressed that a system of gradual renewal is very necessary to ensure a good future supply.

All Chemical and bacteriological samples taken during the year were reported to be satisfactory.

Following is the monthly rainfall figures for the year:—

January		4.17 inches
February		1.25 ,,
March		2.11 ,,
April		2.56 ,,
May		.75 ,,
June		1.96 ,,

July		3.42 inches
August		4.88 ,,
September		4.31 ,,
October		2.47 ,,
November		2.02 ,,
December		3.69 ,,
Total		33.59 ,,

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

During the year, 5 cwts., 46 lbs.. of foodstuffs including canned foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

47 Food premises were reported under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and many structural and other contraventions noted and the responsible persons were requested to carry out the necessary improvements.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY